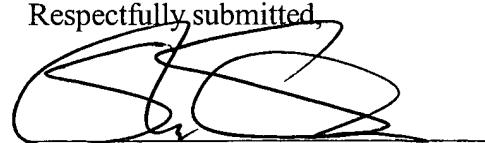


Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims of the present application are believed to be in a condition for allowance and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

12/31/03

Date

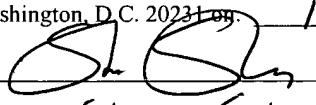


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Non Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 12/31/03.



Steve Schmid